In the Matter of:

Maryland Department of the Environment

July 2, 2018 Public Hearing

Condensed Transcript with Word Index



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	1		3
1		1	PROCEEDINGS
2		2	
3		3	(Meeting commenced at 10:07 a.m.)
4		4	MS. BRUN: Good morning. On behalf of the
5	MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT	5	Department of the Environment, Air and Radiation
6	STATEMENT OF THE AIR AND RADIATION ADMINISTRATION	6	Administration, I would like to welcome you to this public
7	PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING	7	hearing.
8	THE STATE OF MARYLAND 0.075 PPM 8-HOUR OZONE NITROGEN OXIDE	8	My name is Alexandra Brun and I'm a National
9	REASONABLY AVAILABLE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY (RACT)	9	Resources Planner in the Air and Radiation Administration.
10	STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	10	I will serve as hearing officer for today's hearing. I
11		11	would like to ask all of you in attendance today to please
12	July 2, 2018 10:00 AM	12	sign in if you haven't already done so. This will help us
13		13	to keep an accurate record of the people who participate in
14	Maryland Department of the Environment	14	the hearing. Also, copies of the proposed State
15	Montgomery Park Building	15	Implementation Plan, as well as the Department's statement
16	1800 Washington Boulevard	16	are available on the table for your information.
17	Baltimore, Maryland 21230	17	This hearing concerns the State of Maryland 0.075
18		18	ppm 8-Hour Ozone Nitrogen Oxide Reasonably Available Control
19	HEARING OFFICER: Alexandra Brun	19	Technology State Implementation Plan. The purpose of this
20		20	hearing is to give you the opportunity to comment on this
21		21	State Implementation Plan, which consists of Maryland's SIP
22		22	provision developed for the purpose of meeting the RACT
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1	2 Phtopdood:		4
1	Attendees:	1 2	requirement set forth by the Clean Air Act, as the
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affiliation, and deliver your statement loudly and clearly.

A summary of all comments received will be answered in writing and published with the final SIP document. I will now call on Ms. Herpel.

MS. HERPEL: Good morning. My name is Jess Herpel. I am a Natural Resources Planner in the Planning and Policy Division, Air Quality Planning Program of the Air and Radiation Administration, Maryland Department of the Environment.

This public hearing is related to the air quality plan entitled the State of Maryland 0.075 ppm 8-Hour Ozone Nitrogen Oxide Reasonably Available Control Technology State Implementation Plan.

This public hearing is being held pursuant to federal law found at 42 U.S.C., Section 7410(a), and 40 CFR Parts 51.102 and 251. It is also being held in conformance with the State Administrative Procedure Act, under the State Government Article, beginning at Section 10-101.

Maryland Register, Volume 45, Issue 21, date
June 8, 2018. The notice was also posted on the Maryland
Department of the Environment's website on May 23, 2018, and

Notice of this public hearing appeared in the

particulate matter. The Environmental Protection Agency
 establishes rules and regulations to implement the Clean Air
 Act.

This plan consists of Maryland's State
Implementation Plan Revision developed for the purpose of meeting the RACT requirements set forth by the Clean Air Act, as the requirements apply to the 0.075 ppm 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standards.

This document is a revised and updated version of the RACT SIP that Maryland submitted in 2011, in response to the 1997 0.080 ppm 8-hour ozone standard.

The Department will consider all pertinent comments, and revise the proposed plan if necessary, before making a final decision to adopt the plan and submit it to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval as a Maryland State Implementation Plan. Oral and written comments may be presented at this hearing. The 30-day public comment period that began on May 23, 2018, for receipt of all comments to the plan will close at 5:00 p.m. on July 2nd, 2018.

MS. BRUN: Would anyone like to comment on this SIP document? Do you want to just go around this way, or in

remained on the website through the date of today's hearing.

Copies of each of the public hearing notice and the proposed the State of Maryland 0.075 ppm 8-Hour Ozone Nitrogen Oxide Reasonably Available Control Technology State Implementation Plan will be part of the formal hearing record.

Access to the proposed document was made available via the website of the Maryland Department of the Environment. Hard copies were also available at the Maryland Department of the Environment.

The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with an opportunity to formally comment on the proposed document.

The Clean Air Act was passed in 1970 to protect public health and welfare. Congress amended the Act in 1990 to establish requirements for areas not meeting the national ambient air quality standards. The Clean Air Act amendments established a process for evaluating air quality in each region and identifying nonattainment areas according to the severity of its air pollution problem. The Clean Air Act sets health standards for six ambient pollutants: carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, ozone, lead and

1 order, or does anyone --

MS. KELLY: Oh, can I go first?

3 MS. BRUN: Sure.

MS. KELLY: Can you -- can you hear -- can I speak

from here or should I get closer to a mic?

COURT REPORTER: If you could get closer to the mic that would help a lot. Thank you.

MS. KELLY: Good morning. My name is Leah Kelly and I'm a senior attorney with the Environmental Integrity Project. EIP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to ensure effective enforcement of environmental laws in the U.S., and we have a program that is focused on environmental justice in Baltimore City. Specifically, we seek to reduce pollution that affects residents of Baltimore and to assist partner groups working to improve environmental health in the City.

I will be submitting written comments via e-mail later today on behalf of EIP and several additional groups setting forth our concerns with MDE's proposal to certify Reasonably Available Control Technology, RACT, for the 2008 ozone standard.

I am delivering these comments this morning on

2 (Pages 5 to 8)

behalf of EIP. We have been participating for approximately two years in the public stakeholder process as MDE develops regulations setting new nitrogen oxides, or NOx, RACT limits for Maryland's two large municipal waste combustors, which are referred to as incinerators in these comments. We are extremely concerned by MDE's proposal to certify a NOx limit of 205 parts per million dry volume at seven percent oxygen, or ppm, on a 24-hour average as RACT for incinerators in Maryland.

For the reasons that I am about to discuss and those set forth in the written comments that we will submit later today, we believe that MDE's proposal to certify this limit as RACT is arbitrary and capricious and contrary to the Federal Clean Air Act and Maryland's implementing regulations.

During MDE's public stakeholder process, the agency has acknowledged repeatedly that 205 ppm is no longer RACT for these facilities. With respect to the Wheelabrator Baltimore incinerator, the States of Connecticut and New Jersey have both set NOx RACT limits of 150 parts per million on a 24-hour basis for their incinerators, including facilities that use mass burn waterwall combustors like the

cut its annual NOx emissions, measured in tons per year, in half.

While MDE has stated that there is still shortterm variability in the NOx emissions from this plant, MDE has concluded in a draft regulation that has not yet been proposed in the Maryland Register that RACT for this plant is 105 parts per million on a 30-day basis and 140 parts per million on 24-hour basis.

In addition, the Virginia Department of
Environmental Quality has concluded that NOx RACT for a very
similar incinerator, the Covanta Fairfax plant in Lorton,
Virginia, is 110 parts per million on a daily average and 90
parts per million on an annual average. Thus, it is crystal
clear that 205 parts per million on a 24-hour basis cannot
be considered NOx RACT for the Montgomery County
incinerator.

In addition, it appears that MDE may not have complied with EPA's procedural requirements for public participation in the development of its RACT certification for the 2008 ozone standard. Under EPA's regulations at 40 C.F.R. Section 51.102, states are required to give the public at least 30 days' notice of a hearing on such a

Wheelabrator Baltimore plant.

Massachusetts and New York have also proposed a 150 parts per million 24-hour limit or stated that they are considering that limit for their incinerators. In addition, at least two Wheelabrator incinerators located in other states that are extremely similar to the Baltimore facility are already subject to a 150 part per million 24-hour limit, as discussed in the comments that we will submit later today.

Finally, information developed as part of the public stakeholder process has clearly shown that the Wheelabrator Baltimore plant can meet a limit of 150 parts per million, and even lower than this, on a 24-hour basis simply by optimizing its existing control technology. This information includes control optimization tests run at the Wheelabrator Baltimore plant. Thus, it is crystal clear that a 24-hour limit of 205 parts per million cannot be considered RACT for the Wheelabrator Baltimore incinerator.

It is also very troubling that MDE is proposing to certify a 24-hour limit of 205 parts per million for the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility. This incinerator installed a new NOx control system in 2009 that

proposal. MDE published notice of today's hearing in the June 8th, 2018, Maryland Register, which gave the public 24 days' notice of the hearing. We just learned today that notice was published on MDE's website on May 23rd, 2018. And we will do our best to address in our written comments whether this is sufficient to meet EPA's requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

MS. BRUN: Thank you, Ms. Kelly. Would anyone

else like to comment on the SIP document?

MS. SMITH-HAMS: Good morning. My name is Taylor Smith-Hams and I'm the Healthy Communities Campaign Organizer for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. We are a regional nonprofit focused on fighting climate change and promoting clean energy alternatives in Maryland, DC, and Virginia.

We agree with our colleagues at the Environmental Integrity Project and are opposed to MDE's proposal to certify a nitrogen oxides or NOx limit of 205 parts per million as Reasonably Available Control Technology, or RACT, for Maryland's two large municipal solid waste combustors, including the BRESCO incinerator in Baltimore.

We have engaged in MDE's multi-year stakeholder

3 (Pages 9 to 12)

process concerning the NOx limits for Maryland's two large incinerators. Much of my organization's work takes place in Baltimore, home of the BRESCO incinerator. In fact, BRESCO is the largest stationary source of air pollution in all of Baltimore, which has a lot of sources of pollution.

We have turned out to these stakeholder meetings in good faith to emphasize the importance of limiting pollution from BRESCO in order to protect public health and the climate from harmful emissions. Reducing local air pollution, and NOx in particular, is critical for public health in Baltimore. Air pollution from old and dirty energy sources such as incinerators is costing Marylanders their education through missed school. In fact, asthma is a leading cause of absenteeism in Baltimore schools. Air pollution also causes Marylanders to miss work and increases health care expenses, causing economic hardship.

Through this stakeholder process, MDE has concluded that 205 is no longer RACT for either of the state's trash-burning incinerators. Control tests and studies throughout the stakeholder process have revealed that BRESCO can attain a 135 parts per million NOx limit just by optimizing existing control technology. MDE is

Watford. I grew up in Curtis Bay, a small community in South Baltimore. And I, along with residents in Baltimore are working on a path towards zero waste in our city. Every day residents are piloting with new ideas for what is zero waste, what alternatives for incineration looks like in our communities, in our communities that have significant levels of pollution that we're already dealing with.

And I say that to say that there is a process that's already happening in Baltimore City that hundreds of residents have participated in and are critical in helping to shape. And the process in question sets significantly stricter limits of NOx than the one that's before us right now.

City Council is supportive and pushing the stricter NOx limits forward. And that the proposed one before us only holds us back from what we can do as a city, as residents, and what we need in Baltimore. So, I'm strongly opposed to the proposed NOx limits.

MS. BRUN: Thank you, Ms. Watford. Would anyone else like to comment on the SIP document?

MR. SAWTEL: Yes. Good morning everyone. My name is Gregory Sawtel. I am also a Curtis Bay resident and work

aware of these studies and has informally issued a draft rule setting lower NOx RACT limits for both incinerators.

So, it is concerning that the Department appears to be ignoring the results of its own stakeholder process and draft rule by proposing to certify a 205 parts per million NOx limit as RACT for these facilities. Not only is MDE ignoring the results of its own stakeholder process, it also appears to be dismissing the concerns of the Baltimore residents and officials who are suffering the effects of this polluting facility. The Baltimore City Council has passed a resolution calling for a 45 parts per million limit for the BRESCO incinerator.

MDE is being disrespectful to the city's elected officials and residents in proposing that 205 is RACT when it knows that 205 parts per million is not RACT and when city leaders are formally calling for much stricter limits.

We urge you not to finalize this proposal and to adhere to your previous commitments to set the lowest possible NOx limit for these facilities. Thank you.

MS. BRUN: Thank you. Would anyone else like to comment on the SIP?

MS. WATFORD: Yes. Hi, my name is Destiny

with Destiny and folks throughout Baltimore and particularly South Baltimore on a daily basis to confront issues such as disparate health outcomes resulting from facilities such as the BRESCO incinerator.

I wanted to speak again about a process, and about what brings me here today is that, as others noted, we've been engaged in a labor intensive process that was -- that was -- brought me to the table in good faith to bring forth my experience, my insight, and, you know, honestly, time to collaborate. I'm really and truly deep into this issue, some going for a number of years, as others have said, and I'm honestly at a loss for words about this moment we're at today.

Where, honestly, I think, really the microphone should be in another place, and it should be getting answers as to what in the world is going on, when we've engaged in a good faith effort for two years with officials at the city level, at the state level. Okay? And we have momentum driving towards a path forward that, you know, even folks working at the impacted facilities were participating in.

And now with a narrow window of time published on a website that, no offense to the MDE website, but is not

4 (Pages 13 to 16)

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heavily trafficked. And in the context of an unfolding process, not to go above and beyond, and to reach out to folks who -- who were sitting in the room adjacent to this, you know, over multiple sessions, city council people who had gone through the process of putting forth resolutions on this very issue, would not be extended a heads up.

A notice of, hey, we're considering going in another direction. Not another direction, but a completely unfathomable direction in the context of where we were headed, to me deserves -- and I hope that that's going to happen today, because if there is going to be a bit more than what was presented with the preface remarks, you know, stating what I felt was -- was zero context for how -- why we're here right now.

This is beyond disorientating. It's infuriating. It's unacceptable. It won't stand if this -- if this proposal moves forward. It can't. Too much is at stake. We've put too much into this. And, instead, it's about the process. It's about belief in the MDE as a place to solve problems. Not to rely on decades old -- old numbers that aren't even considered RACT nationwide. You identified one place where this would hold up as RACT. And if you're

Baltimore City alone. And we are here to stand with our colleagues who have already spoken in opposition to finalizing a NOx RACT limit of 205 parts per million.

In addition, I live one mile away from the BRESCO trash incinerator myself in Southwest Baltimore. And I grew up in Frederick, not far from the Dickerson incinerator, in a community that is also impacted by trash incinerator air pollution. I'm deeply concerned that this RACT limit is not protective of public health and welfare, and does not reflect the public stakeholder process that has been going on for the past two years, let alone the science of what could be done to limit air pollution from these incinerators and the law of what must be certified as RACT.

Like our colleagues have spoken about, we've been participating in the stakeholder processes for two years and we know that MDE has heard from ourselves, from our colleagues, and from community members all across the State of Maryland that a NOx RACT limit of 205 parts per million is not acceptable, and we need to strive for and maintain a much lower limit on nitrogen oxide air pollution from the BRESCO and Dickerson trash incinerators.

It's imperative the regulations certified in this

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proposing that we're going to be the place that lifts this up as RACT, I think only my comments here, but I don't think that's going to fly.

It certainly won't fly for residents in South Baltimore for folks that have stood up on this issue in the past, continue to do so, are dedicated and aren't going to let this go. So, we need to get that out there. That's where we are. People are organized. People have a new vision for what health and sustainability looks like and this is a very, very bad path to go down if we are to honor a commitment to a process with the residents and officials that are dedicated to improving the health and sustainability of our neighborhoods, improving the climate for environmentally responsible business, not setting us back into some, honestly, unexplored and untested realm.

MS. BRUN: Thank you, Mr. Sawtel. Would anyone else like to comment on the SIP document?

MS. KUNZE: Good morning. Thank you for opportunity to comment today. My name is Jennifer Kunze. JENNIFER, KUNZE. And I am the Maryland Program Organizer for Clean Water Action. We are a national environmental advocacy group with over 8,000 members in

process reflect the reality of science and law, and we trust that MDE will move forward with the process of instituting much lower nitrogen oxide limits than 205 parts per million, as we have been urging for two years, rather than moving forward with this arbitrary and capricious continuance of the unacceptable status quo. Thank you.

MS. BRUN: Thank you, Ms. Kunze. Are there any other comments?

MS. WRIGHT: Can you hear me from here? COURT REPORTER: If you could speak up just a little bit.

MS. WRIGHT: Great. Good morning, my name is Brittany Wright and I am here on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

The Bay Foundation respectfully request Maryland to reconsider its proposed State Implementation Plan certifying 205 parts per million as NOx RACT for the municipal waste combustors.

Two hundred five per million cannot be considered RACT and based on CBF's previous comment letters and expert analysis, MDE knows 205 parts per million is not the lowest

emission limit that either municipal waste combustor in

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Maryland is capable of meeting by the application of control technology that is reasonably available considering technological and economic feasibility.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is dedicated to the implementation and success of the Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Blueprint, which seeks to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution within the Bay watershed. The Blueprint consists of the 2010 Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, issued by EPA, and the state-developed Watershed Implementation Plans that detail how the TMDL pollution reductions will be achieved.

At the time the Bay TMDL was established, EPA found that air pollution sources contribute about one third of the total nitrogen pollution into the Chesapeake Bay watershed through atmospheric deposition. The Bay Foundation represents more than 240,000 members, many of whom live in areas impacted by NOx pollution. CBF has significant concerns regarding the high NOx emissions from both municipal waste combustors in Maryland. CBF has expressed to MDE numerous times, with the help of our expert consultants, that both facilities are capable of achieving a

NOx RACT that is substantially lower than EPA's set proposed

parts per million limits proposed using its existing control technology, solely through further optimization of those controls.

With this information and the information MDE already has, it is fair to say that 205 parts per million is an unacceptable NOx RACT standard and we should be requiring more from both of these facilities.

For approximately two years, MDE has been holding a public stakeholder process as it develops regulations establishing new NOx RACT limits for Maryland's two municipal waste combustors. CBF understands that MDE still intends to promulgate a regulation setting lower NOx limits for both of the municipal combustors despite this proposal to certify existing 205 ppm limit to EPA as RACT. However, this does not change the fact that 205 parts per million is not RACT for municipal waste combustors.

If MDE were to certify a 205 parts per million NOx limit as RACT to EPA and then fail to promulgate new NOx limits for the large municipal waste combustors, it would be enormously dismissive of the repeated concerns expressed by CBF, the Baltimore City residents, elected officials, and other groups here present today.

limit of 205 parts per million.

As has been discussed in more detail through previous comment letters, and our subsequent comment letter, MDE has conclusively stated that both municipal waste combustors in Maryland are capable of meeting more stringent RACT requirements for NOx. MDE is aware that multiple states, some with municipal waste combustors very similar to both facilities in Maryland, have set significantly lower NOx RACT limits for the 2008 ozone standard. In addition, there is ample facility specific evidence in previous comment letters to MDE showing that RACT for each facility is far below 205 parts per million and that the 205 parts per million NOx limit cannot be considered RACT for these plants.

In addition, CBF has expressed a number of concerns regarding the health and environmental effects of NOx emissions from the Wheelabrator facility in Baltimore, Maryland. Based off of our recent comment letter submitted to MDE, Dr. Sahu, our consultant on environmental and energy issues, concluded that based on his review of 2017 one-hour CEMS data and the 2017 Fuel Tech Report, Wheelabrator can meet NOx limits lower than the 150 parts per million and 145

For these reasons, finalizing a 205 parts per million for both municipal waste combustors is contrary to the law set forth in the Federal Clean Air Act and Maryland's implementing regulations. For more detailed information and technical analysis of how CBF came to this position, please refer to our prior comment letters dated May 9, 2017, our joint comment letter with Environmental Integrity Project submitted May 11, 2018, and our most recent detailed letter regarding the proposed SIP NOx RACT submittal of 205 parts per million. Thank you.

MS. BRUN: Thank you. Are there any other comments?

Let the record reflect that the statements have been taken from all who wish to make one. This will conclude this public hearing for the State of Maryland 0.075 ppm 8-Hour Reasonably Available Control Technology State Implementation Plan.

Let the record reflect that it is now 10:36 on July 2nd, 2018.

(Whereupon, the hearing was concluded at 10:36 a.m.)

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3	I, Carol Vasques, do hereby certify that the
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